

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, SENV, UR, US, XV

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY - TRANSMITTAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STUDY TO TREATY SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE A-840

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR MET MARCH 9 WITH YE. I. TOLSTIKOV
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF USSR HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, TO DISCUSS
A RANGE OF QUESTIONS ON ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC RESEARCH.

2. AFTER REVIEWING HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE ANTARCTIC
TWENTY YEARS AGO, TOLSTIKOV TURNED TO CURRENT RESEARCH EFFORTS AND
NOTED THAT HE PERCEIVES A BASIC DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS
BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET INTERESTS ON QUESTIONS OF THE UTILIZATION
OF ANTARCTIC RESOURCES. THE U.S., HE ASSERTED, IS OVERLY
CONCERNED WITH THE PROTECTION OF LIVING RESOURCES, AND CITED AS
AN EXAMPE THE HARVEST OF SEALS. TWELVE THOUSAND SEALS COULD
BE HARVESTED ANNUALLY, HE INSISTED, WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE
SEAL POPULATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE STATED, THE SOVIET
UNION IS MORE CONCERNED THAN IS THE U.S. WITH THE POSSIBLE
ADVERESE EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION, WHICH IN HIS
OPINION WILL HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON ANTARCTIC FAUNA AND FLORA
AND ON THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

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3. AT THIS POINT SCIENCE COUNSELOR HANDED TOLSTIKOV THE TWO-
VOLUME PUBLICATION "A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE ANTARCTIC MINERAL DEVELOPMENT" (PER REF AIRGRAM)
AND NOTED THAT ONE OF HIS PURPOSES IN MEETING WITH TOLSTIKOV
WAS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THIS DOCUMENT. SCIENCE COUNSELOR
EXPALINED THAT THE U.S. IS CONCERNED WITH THE RATIONAL USE AND

PROTECTION OF ALL ANTARCTIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING MINERALS, AND HOPES THAT ALL TREATY SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS SHARE THESE CONCERNS. THE PREPARATION OF A STUDY SUCH AS THIS CLEARLY REFLECTS THE SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. INTEREST IN RESOURCE PROTECTION.

4. SCIENCE COUNSELOR NOTED THAT IT IS USEFUL TO EXCHANGE MATERIALS OF THIS NATURE TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND ASKED TOLSTIKOV IF THE SOVIETS HAVE PREPARED ANY STUDIES ON ANTARCTIC MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. TOLSTIKOV ADMITTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT REALLY EMBARKED UPON ANY IN-DEPTH STUDIES OF RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE AT RECEIVING A COPY OF THE U.S. CONTRACT REPORT.

5. EMBASSY WOULD EXPECT SOVIETS TO CONTINUE TO ESPOSE THE VIEWS ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AS EXPOUNDED BY TOLSTIKOV IN PARA 2 ABOVE, AT CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND OTHER INTERANTIONAL FORA.
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Message Attributes

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